

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

DELEGATE TERRIE L. SUIT, CHAIR

ELIZABETH A. PALEN, Commission Coordinator



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VIRGINIA HOUSING COMMISSION

On-Site Sewer Sub-Work Group

July 11, 2007, 1:00 PM

Senate Room 3, State Capitol

Meeting Summary

Members Present: Delegate Terrie Suit (Chair), Richard Blackwell, Roger Cooley, Mark Courtney, Robert Hicks, Ted McCormack, Christopher McQuale, Curtis Moore, John Neel, Pat O'Hare, Joel Pinnix, David Rigby, Robert E. Lee, Dennis O. Childress, W.R. "Bob" Willoughby, Jr., Neal P. Spiers, Jason E. Fulbright, and Quinn P. Zimmerman.

8 members of the public were present.

I. Welcome and Call to Order

- Delegate Terrie Suit (Chair) called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM.

II. 2007 Bills

- A. SB 1270 - Sewage disposal; certification of certain workers (Herring)
- B. HB 3134 - Onsite sewage systems; operation and maintenance program (Morgan)

III. Review Process

- A. Mark Courtney - Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation
- B. Bob Hicks - Department of Health

IV. Discussion and Public Comment

- A. Beginning July 1, 2009, the regulatory process will be transferred from the Department of Health to DPOR. They will need to look into the maintenance and operations of all systems and the impact of these regulations. It was discussed that things need to be done in the interest of the homeowners. If the system is a private operating system, this needs to be disclosed at the time of sale, but if the homeowner chooses to operate their own system, there should be a licensure process.
- B. The next portion of the meeting dealt with AOSE's and engineers, and their role in the onsite sewage process. A line needs to be drawn as to the duties of the AOSE's and the engineers. Engineer's feel they should be the sole designers of these systems. AOSE's feel they should be able to make recommendations to customers as to what parts to use for their onsite system. It was brought up that maybe distinguishing between a level one and a level two AOSE would be something to look into. The level ones could be introductory level, and level twos could potentially make

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SENATOR MAMIE E. LOCKE
SENATOR JOHN C. WATKINS
SENATOR MARY MARGARET WHIPPLE

F. GARY GARCZYNSKI
F. ANDREW HEATWOLE
T. K. SOMANATH

recommendations and mix and match different manufactured parts. The idea was that we are trying to provide residential homes with a state wide plan that is a reasonable cost for these design systems. The problem is that every site is different. Designers need to scale each site, so having a standard may be difficult. Finally, it was discussed that we are not trying to force AOSE's to get an engineering license. This issue of designing systems is purely on a residential basis when it comes to AOSE's and engineers. Anything beyond residential is an engineers position, but there needs to be a line for residential systems. There also needs to be more educational programs for AOSE's, since they work with these design systems.

V. Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 3:05 P.M.